

REMARKS

Applicants request favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1 through 23 are pending in this application, with Claims 1, 12, and 23 being independent.

Claims 1, 12, and 23 have been amended. Applicants submit that no new matter has been added.

Claims 1 through 23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being obvious over U.S. Patent No.5,621,810 (Suzuki, et al.) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,465,172 (Fukushima, et al.). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for the reasons discussed below.

As recited in independent Claims 1, the present invention includes, *inter alia*, the features of re-input determination means for determining whether to output a signal urging re-input of the image data input by the image-data input means, in accordance with a difficulty of determining whether the image data represents a specific image, and signal output means for outputting the signal urging re-input of the image data, in accordance with a result of the determination by said re-input determination means. Independent Claims 12 and 23 recite similar features.

Applicants respectfully submit that neither Suzuki, et al. nor Fukushima, et al., even in the proposed combination, assuming, *arguendo*, that the documents could be combined, discloses or suggests at least the above-discussed claimed features. The Official Action cites Fukushima, et al. for disclosing the feature of determining whether to output a signal urging re-

input of an image. However, Fukushima, et al. merely discloses re-inputting an image when there is an abnormality, such as the storage capacity of the memory being used up, during the original input. That patent fails to disclose or suggest at least the feature of determining whether to output a signal urging re-input of the image data input by the image-data input means, in accordance with a difficulty of determining whether the image data represents a specific image. The other cited art fails to remedy the deficiencies of Fukushima, et al. Therefore, Applicants submit that the independent claims are patentable over the cited art.

The dependent claims are patentable for at least the same reasons as the independent claims, as well as for the additional features they recite.

In view of the foregoing, this application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejection and an early Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 721-5427. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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